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MEMORANDUM

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November 19, 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: The Situation Room
SUBJECT: Information Items

Brezhnev Will Visit Syria in the Second Half of January: The following official statement has been issued in Damascus on the Brezhnev visit:

"At the invitation of President Hafiz Al-asad, the Ba'th Party Secretary General and President of the Republic, CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev will pay a friendly official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in the second half of January, 1975."

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Wilson Message to Karamanlis on Cyprus: The British have shown Deputy Assistant Secretary Stabler the message from Prime Minister Wilson to Karamanlis sent last weekend to be delivered if Karamanlis won the election and were forming a new government, as expected.

After the usual opening courtesies, the message refers to the forthcoming Karamanlis meeting with Makarios and Clerides in Athens. It says that Wilson is concerned that the stalemate in Cyprus may continue indefinitely, with the consequent risk of consolidating the status quo. Until there is enough wider ground to make negotiations fruitful, and so long as the government in Ankara may not be in a position to take initiatives, the main way forward lies with the Clerides/Denktash talks, and Wilson hopes they can make progress on outstanding political matters.

In the weeks ahead, the letter continues, "We" must exercise discretion and resist pressures to take up public postures which can only aggravate the situation and make progress difficult. Wilson says he admired Karamanlis' own statesmanlike restraint in these matters.

Wilson says he is personally convinced that the Turks will not now settle for less than a biregional geographic federation. Although he realizes the difficulty for any Greek or Greek Cypriot minister to agree publicly with this position, Wilson

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believes public recognition of this fact by all concerned might well unlock the door to progress. At the very least, it is important that nothing be said to exclude this solution. Wilson says he particularly welcomed Clerides' recent observation that some form of geographic federation was inevitable.

Wilson says that he or Callaghan hopes to see President Makarios while he is in London to encourage his support for Mr. Clerides and his adoption of a flexible and realistic approach. Meanwhile, Wilson is sure that he can rely on Karamanlis' wise influence, both in Karamanlis' talks with Archbishop Makarios and Clerides and thereafter. (Note appellation of Makarios as "President" first mention and "Archbishop" second mention and appellation of Clerides simply as "Mr.") (Gates)

Washington Star-News: President Ford's reassurances to the Japanese of our intentions regarding food, fuel diplomacy, and nuclear armaments are described by Oswald Johnston on the front page. Your scheme for dealing with the oil crisis is mentioned, along with your assurances that the soybean episode will not be repeated "under foreseeable circumstances." You were reportedly vague on the nuclear weapons issue. Hirohito's visit to the U.S. next year was also announced.

Israeli security forces stormed an apartment house in Beit Shean, a town near the Jordanian border, Tuesday and killed four Arab terrorists who had seized the building earlier and had held about 75 occupants captive for three hours. Three of those occupants were also killed. The Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Beirut took responsibility for the terrorist raid, according to UPI.

According to a Star editorial, the decisive victory of Prime Minister Karamanlis, in Greece's first free election in a decade, shows a strong preference in that country for stable, middle-road democracy. Karamanlis and his New Democracy Party won 54 percent of the popular vote and more than 200 of the 300 seats in parliament. Mavros won second place (20 percent), with Papandreu receiving 13 percent, the Communists 8 percent, and monarchist right-wingers two percent. The writer believes that if the Cyprus problem can be settled, Greece under Karamanlis probably will rejoin NATO and repair its relations with Washington.

Crosby Noyes questions what kind of organized international morality the UN is coming to represent. He believes it is becoming a "club of former colonial peoples whose notions of

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international behavior tend to exclude a good deal of the rest of the world and who take their cue from the most colorful revolutionary on the scene." He describes Arafat's carefully orchestrated wooing of the UNGA, a "mindless congreation that automatically salivates at words like colonialism, imperialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and -- at Arafat's insistence -- Zionism." Noyes goes on to say Arafat, in calling for the elimination of Israel and creation of a secular, Arab-dominated Palestine, is out of step with the other Arabs, who would probably be willing to settle with Israel on terms other than those on which the PLO insists. Arafat's speech at the UN has made it impossible for any Israeli government to negotiate with him and harder for any outsiders who do not share the objective of destroying Israel to insist that Israel should. Noyes believes this means the Palestinian problem is "on ice" and is likely to stay there for some time.

Vic Gold describes the depths to which the UNGA is "capable of descending." He says the remark that the UNGA is a "mere debating society" is an aspersion on debating societies. He wonders whether the time will come when the U.S. delegation is suspended on grounds of racial discrimination and repression in our domestic affairs, given the precedent for arbitrary and capricious suspensions.

William Safire asks "why now?" regarding President Ford's visit to Vladivostok six months ahead of schedule. He believes it is because the opening that permitted our creative diplomacy of the last five years is showing signs of closing. He writes that you will deny this as well as that we have exploited the Sino-Soviet split. The Soviets and Chinese cannot permit this exploitation indefinitely -- they need to improve their state-to-state relations while continuing their international Communist Party battle. This shift away from national confrontation means our "exploitable gap" will be narrowed. It will be harder for us to play the Soviets against the Chinese in the future. We are hurrying now to leverage as much as we can before the opening really begins to close.

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